

USSN: 09/837,886
Filing Date: April 18, 2001

REMARKS

Claims 28-29, 51-52 and are pending in this case. Claims 30-48 have been canceled by this Amendment. Support for the amendments to claims 28, 29 and 52 may be found in the Specification at beginning at page 2, line 31, ending on page 3, line 1; page 5, line 29-31; beginning at page 5, line 25, ending on page 6, line 4; page 6, lines 5-13; page 8, lines 26-28; beginning on page 8, line 29, ending on page 9, line 2; page 9, lines 3-9; page 9, lines 18 and 26-30; and page 12, line 20-22. Applicants respectfully submit that this re-submitted Amendment conforms to the new rules regarding amendments.

New Claims 53-78 have been added. Support for new Claims 53-60 and new Claims 62-68 may be found in original claims 30-37 and 38-44 respectively and in the Specification page 6, lines 17-27 and 31-33; page 12, lines 13-14; page 14, lines 14-26; page 16, lines 11-24; page 18, lines 17-19; page 24, lines 5-14; page 26, lines 3-11; page 35, lines 20-34. Support for new claim 61 may be found in the Specification at page 16, lines 11-24. Support for new claim 69-80 may be found in the Specification at page 5, lines 28-30; page 7, lines 3-4; page 8, lines 26-32; page 10, lines 6-32; page 12, lines 24-28; page 13, lines 26-28; and page 14, lines 18-20.

No new matter has been added by this amendment. Applicants submit that inventorship has not been changed by the amendments to the claims.

Claim Objections

Claims 30-48 are objected to for depending on preceding claims.

Claim 32 is objected to as being in improper form.

Claims 32, 40, and 43 are objected to because a claim should not be separated by any claims which does not also depend from said dependent claim. Without prejudice or disclaimer Claims 30-48 have been canceled by this amendment. In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the objection to the claims.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claims 45-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the Applicants were in possession of the claimed invention at the time the application was filed.

Accordingly, without prejudice or disclaimer Applicants cancel Claims 45-48. Thereby, making the rejection moot.

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DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTIONS

Non-statutory Double Patenting

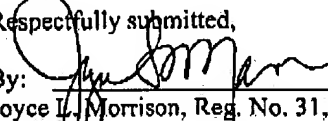
Claims 28, 29, 33, 38, and 45-48 have been rejected for obviousness-type double patenting based on claims 1, 2, 6, 11, and 18-21 of U.S. Patent No. 6,269,312. Claims 45-48 have been canceled. Claims 30, 31, 34-37, 39-44, 51 and 52 have been rejected for obviousness-type double patenting based on claims 1, 2, 4, 7-10, and 12-17 of U.S. Patent No. 6,269,312.

An unsigned draft terminal disclaimer was submitted with the originally filed response on August 11, 2003. A fully executed terminal disclaimer was submitted on August 13, 2003, along with the assignment and recordation documents. Therefore, the obviousness-type double patenting rejection has been made moot.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the obviousness-type double patenting rejection based on U.S. Patent No. 6,269,312.

The Applicants submit that in light of the above-amendment and previous submission of a terminal disclaimer, the claims are now in condition for allowance and an early notification of such is respectfully solicited. Please direct any calls in connection with this application to the undersigned at (626) 737-8019.

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Respectfully submitted,
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